

REMARKS

This Amendment is fully responsive to the non-final Office Action dated April 5, 2010, issued in connection with the above-identified application. Claims 32-62 are pending in the present application. With this Amendment, claims 33-35, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 47 and 49 have been amended, and claims 32, 36, 48 and 50-62 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Applicants have amended the specification, the abstract and the drawings in order to place the present application in better form for U.S. patent practice. Replacement portions of the specification and a new abstract have been provided. Additionally, a replacement sheet has been provided for Fig. 20 to indicate that the drawing is directed to “prior art.” No new matter has been introduced by the amendments made to the specification, the abstract and Fig. 20.

In the Office Action, claims 33-35 and 39-47 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 33-35 and 47 have been rewritten in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, claims 39-46 depend respectively from rewritten claims 34 and 35; and allowed claims 37 and 38. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 33-35 and 39-47 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 37, 38 and 49 have been allowed. Only minor editorial amendments have been made to claims 37, 38 and 49. Accordingly, claims 37, 38 and 49 should remain in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 32 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Furumiya et al. (U.S. 6,195,320); claim 36 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosoya et al. (U.S. 5,428,455); and claim 48 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aoe et al. (U.S. 7,057,982).

Claims 32, 36 and 48 have been canceled thereby rendering the above rejections to those claims moot. Additionally, as noted above, the remaining claims in the present application have been indicated as allowable or have been rewritten in independent form to include allowable subject matter.

In light of the above, the Applicants submit that all the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the

objection and rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action, and pass the present application to issue. Additionally, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to resolve any remaining issues in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshihiro KANDA et al.

/Mark D. Pratt/
By 2010.07.06 13:19:06 -04'00'

Mark D. Pratt
Registration No. 45,794
Attorney for Applicants

MDP/clw
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
July 6, 2010